



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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September 26, 1996

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *adg*

RE: Site Inspection, Duchesne County, Duchesne County Asphalt Mine, M/047/028, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: September 24, 1996  
Time of Inspection: 1520 -1640  
Conditions: cool, partly cloudy  
Participants: Doug Nielson, Duchesne County; Wayne Hedberg, Tony Gallegos, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To examine the current status of site and discuss Duchesne County's response to the Division's 1/30/96 review letter.

We began the inspection at what was called the old crushing and stockpiling area. This area is currently cleared of any asphalt stockpiles. To the north of this area was a mound of overburden materials. Doug explained that they needed to lower the crusher to match up with the pit which continued to deepen. In order to do this, they lowered the crusher by excavating the pad of materials beneath it. The pad was made up of overburden material.

The next area examined was the eastern edge of the pit. The pit has deepened since the last inspection. In addition, a new access road into the pit has been created near the north end. This road was created to shorten the haul and climb out of the pit. The current stockpile of crushed asphalt material is located on the south eastern corner of the pit. During this inspection, stockpiled asphalt was being loaded into haul trucks by a front end loader. Doug informed us that one of their newer trucks would haul approximately 32 tons of material. This amount of material would create a road approximately 72 feet long by 24 feet wide by 4 inches thick. As the pit has deepened the county has had to narrow the width of the pit. They cannot push the overburden pile on the eastern edge out any further because this material would encroach on private lands. They cannot mine the other direction without beginning at the top of the existing highwall, stripping overburden and then mining down.

During this inspection there was some water pooled in the lower portions of the pit. Although the pit has not encountered water thus far, there are rumors that there was a seep on the hill where the pit is located. There was a wet area visible on the pit highwall during this inspection. There is also a small cottonwood tree growing out of a portion of the pit highwall.

Duchesne County would like to expand the mine to the west by stripping the overburden above the highwall and then mining down through the deposit. Doug estimates that the amount of area needed in the expansion would be approximately the same width and length as the existing pit. He estimates the county would need 3 years to strip off the overburden prior to mining asphalt. Doug proposed placing the topsoil layer and overburden layer from this proposed expansion in separate stockpiles in the old crushing and stockpiling area. The county would grub the expansion area and create a windrow of the grubbed vegetation along the western perimeter of the expansion. Prior to stripping this expansion area they would need to create a new road up to the area for haulage of the overburden. The new road would probably begin in the small draw near the south end of the existing pit highwall. The proposed expansion would approximately double the amount of mine disturbance at the site. The expansion would be onto lands which the Faucetts's have legal access to which, in turn, would allow the county, as mine operator, to mine on this area.

The amount of material currently stockpiled on site will meet their material demands for approximately two years. It is difficult and costly to continue removing asphalt from down in the pit under the current pit configuration. The amount of material which they can remove from the narrowing pit is not expected to be sufficient to meet their material demands for one year. These conditions have Doug concerned about getting approval for this expansion within the next six to nine months.

Doug explained their blasting protocol to us. They detonate their blast rounds on Fridays during daylight hours. They do have some site specific data collected by their blasting agent company showing that the shockwaves from their blasts are not causing damages off site.

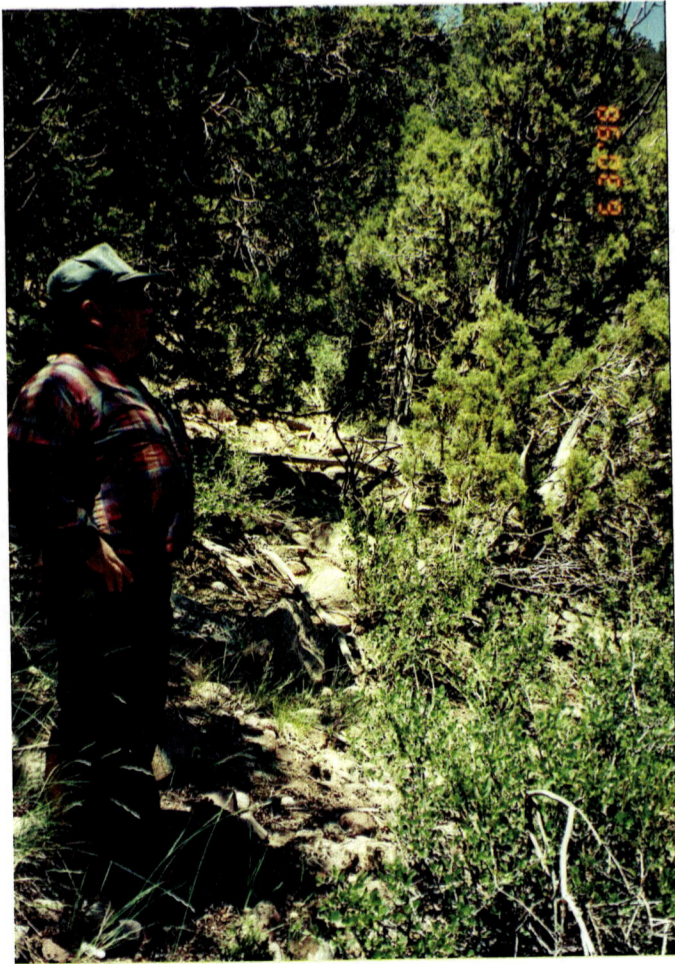
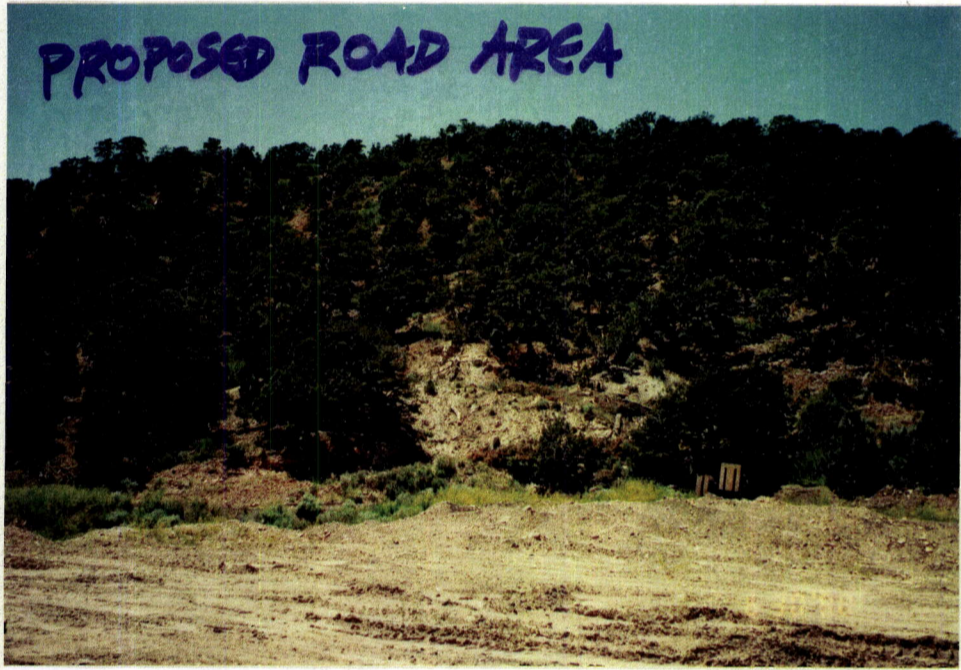
We discussed the county's work toward a response to the Division's review letter of January 30, 1996. The county employee who was working on the response (Nancy Byrd) was injured earlier in the year. Rather than try to re-educate another person and start all over, Doug preferred to wait until Nancy could continue to work on the project. Nancy is expected to return to work in the first part of November 1996. We advised Doug to include a description of this new expansion proposal in that response.

Several photographs were taken of the site from several different vantage points. The Division has no immediate concerns at this site, since the disturbed area has not increased since the initial submission of the large mining operations notice of intention.

jb  
cc: Doug Nielson, Duchesne County  
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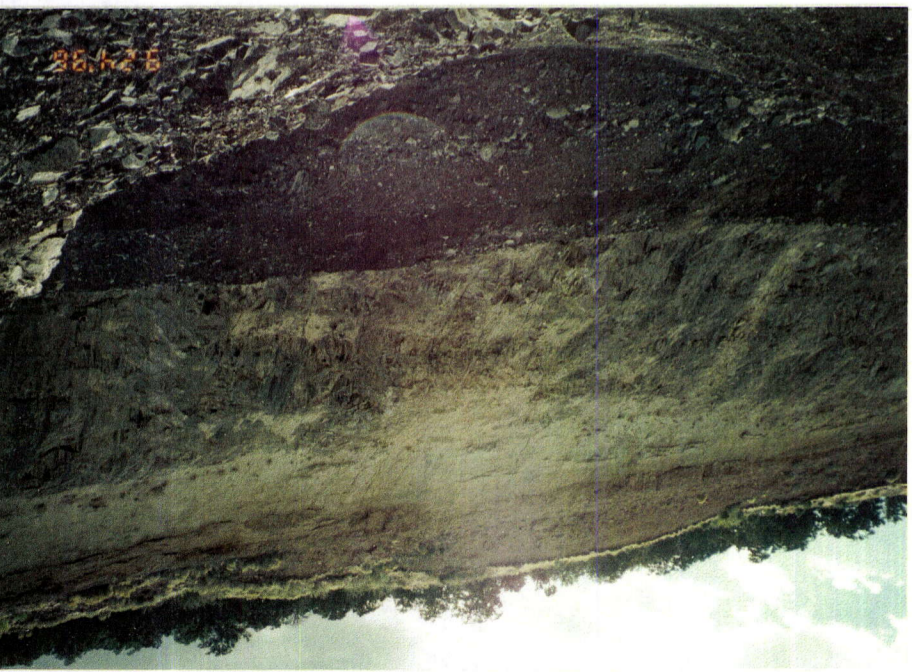
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DUCHESNE COUNTY ASPHALT





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DOCHESNE COUNTY

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